UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Housekeeper's Chat Wednesday, September 3, 1930

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SUBJECT: Fabrics for Children's Play Suits, and other things.

BULLETIN AVAILABLE: Play Suits for Winter. Menu from the Bureau of Home Economics.

--ooOoo--

When I came back from my week-end in the country, I found more letters, and more questions than ever. I'd like to talk again about my visit, and the lovely cottage where I stayed, but I promised to be PRACTICAL today. And PRACTICAL, I must be.

So let's get right on with our questions. They all have something to do with children, today. With the two-year-olds starting to nursery school, and the six-year-olds starting to grammar school, and the high-school graduates going off to college - these are great days for the younger generation. No wonder they occupy the center of the stage in September!

The first question comes from the mother of a small boy, living in Washington State, near Puget Sound. This mother from the Northwest says:

"Our winters here are similar to the New England winters, plus a very keen wind that comes straight from the Canadian mountains. Out-door winter clothing is a great problem to mothers in this region. What materials have you found best for the out-door play suits? I am exceedingly interested in all I've read about the self-help clothes for children. I hope some one invents a self-help shoe lace soon!"

Yes, wouldn't a self-help shoe lace be a boon to mothers, aunties, big sisters - everybody who has helped to keep tidy, youngsters of the run-about age! Wish I had something to suggest.

As for the play suit fabrics, I have. The textile specialists, in the Bureau of Home Economics, have looked into that matter pretty thoroughly. First, they got together samples of all the fabrics, that seemed at all suitable for children's out-door play suits. Then they studied them in the laboratory; then made up into little garments; and finally in the suits when worn by children. They looked to see which fabrics were comfortable, and which would keep out wind, and rain, and snow. They examined woolens and cottons, and many different weaves of each.

All wool, showerproofed, covert cloth, they found was about the best all-around material for a child's play suit. Men's tailoring establishments generally carry this covert cloth.

Another satisfactory wool material is paper-mill felt. It is made by companies that manufacture blankets, and it is soft and wooly, like a good firm blanket. Paper mills use this felt to wrap around huge cylinders, in the making of paper, and if the pieces of felt do not exactly fit the cylinders, then back they go to the woollen manufacturer. He then is willing to sell these pieces of felt more cheaply than any other all-wool material of this sort could be bought.

If you are interested in buying some of this paper-mill felt, for a youngster's play suit, write to the Bureau of Home Economics, In Washington, for names and addresses of manufacturers. The Bureau will also be glad to tell you about a closely-woven, but light-weight, cotton fabric that is also good for children's out-door play suits. And if you haven't a copy of Miss Viemont's leaflet on PLAY SUITS FOR WINTER - Well, I strongly urge you to ask for a copy of that too.

The next question is from Ohio, - Youngstown, Ohio, and it is about self-help clothes for children also. "Can you please tell me where to get patternsfor the little boy's suits pictured in the leaflet?" it reads.

Again I suggest, write to the Bureau of Home Economics. The Bureau does not have patterns to sell or distribute, but it will tell you where patterns can be bought for some of the self-help clothes for children, designed by Miss Scott and others.

Shall we jump from clothes to curtains - curtains for 4-year-old Priscilla's room? Her mother asks what materials are especially good for curtains for the young child's room.

First, of course, it must be a fabric that washes and irons well. Curtains in a young child's bedroom must be laundered rather often. Then, it must be something with clear, bright colors. Pastel shades do not appeal to the young child. English prints, chintz guaranteed against fading in light or water, checked gingham, plain Japanese crepe - are all good. When you go to buy curtain materials don't confine yourself to those shown in the drapery department. Cotton dress materials sometimes are excellent for curtains.

Before long I'm going to have a new bulletin on curtains to send you. But perhaps that is letting out a secret.

Now how about a menu - a noon-time menu that the children will like?

Ready for the menu? Broiled Liver; Baked potatoes; Sliced Raw Tomatoes; Baked Pears; Ginger Cookies.

"Nothing the matter with that menu for the grown-ups in the family, "I remarked to the Menu Specialist. "Of course not, Aunt Sammy. It is easy enough to plan meals that have the right foods for children, and that all the family will like too. I don't sympathize a bit with lots of this talk about special baked <u>this</u> and <u>that</u> for Susie and Junior. It makes a lot of extra work. Just a little care to the family menu, and it is right for everybody from 4 year-old Susie to 75-year-old grandmother.

"Of course the quantity of food needed by different persons, of different ages, varies, naturally. But that is something besides menu planning, isn't it?" ended the Menu Specialist.

In the radio cookbook there is a recipe for baked pears - a mighty seasonable dessert for September.

Once more the menu: Broiled Liver; Baked Potatoes; Sliced Raw Tomatoes; Baked Pear; Ginger Cookies.

TOMORROW: - Getting House Plants Ready for Winter.

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